

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A game machine for executing a predetermined game in response to a player's operation, comprising:

display means for displaying a game screen;

operation switches operated by the player;

5       communications means for performing data communications among other game machines;

start timing synchronization means for establishing start-timing synchronization with said other game machines in the game by communications via said communications means;

10       prompt information storage means for storing operation timing data defining an operation timing of said operation switches to be operated by the player;

display control means for having, in response when the game is synchronously started, said display means displayed 15 information about the operation timings of said operation switches to be operated by the player based on said operation timing data;

first operation timing storage means for storing data relating to the operation timings of said operation switches 20 operated by the player responding to the information displayed on said display means;

second operation timing storage means for acquiring and storing the data which is stored in said first operation timing

storage means of said other game machines through communications  
25 via said communications means; and

correlation evaluation means for evaluating correlation in terms of game operation with said other game machines based on the data stored in said first operation timing storage means and said second operation timing storage means.

2. The game machine according to claim 1, further comprising

independent evaluation means for evaluating whether the timing based on the data stored in said first operation timing  
5 storage means is in a predetermined range from the timing based on said operation timing data.

3. The game machine according to claim 1, wherein said correlation evaluation means evaluates whether both the timing based on the data stored in said first operation timing storage means and the timing based on the data stored in  
5 said second operation timing storage means are in a predetermined range.

4. The game machine according to claim 3, wherein said correlation evaluation means evaluates, by using, as a criterial timing, the timing based on either the data stored in said first operation timing storage means or the data stored

5 in said second operation timing storage means whichever being the operation timing closest to the operation timing defined by said operation timing data at a predetermined timing, from the criterial timing based on one of the data, whether the timing based on the other data is in the predetermined range.

5. The game machine according to claim 1, wherein  
said correlation evaluation means evaluates whether  
the timing based on either the data stored in said first operation  
timing storage means or the data stored in said second operation  
5 timing storage means is in a predetermined range from the timing  
based on said operation timing data at a predetermined timing,  
and whether both the timing based on one of the data and the timing  
based on the other data are in the predetermined range.

6. The game machine according to claim 1, wherein  
said prompt information storage means stores the  
operation timing data defining a plurality of the operation  
timings of said operation switches to be operated by the player,  
5 evaluation timing setting means is further provided for  
setting at least one of the plurality of the operation timings  
based on said operation timing data as an evaluation timing, and  
said first operation timing storage means stores the  
data relating to the operation timing corresponding to said  
10 evaluation timing.

7. The game machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

sound generation means for generating a predetermined sound in response to said operation switches whichever operated;

5 and

part selection means for selecting one of a plurality of parts relating to music play, wherein

said prompt information storage means stores the operation timing data defining a plurality of the operation 10 timings of said operation switches to be operated by the player at least for the part selected by said part selection means, and

said display control means has said display means displayed the information about the operation timings of said operation switches relating to at least the part selected by said 15 part selection means out of the information based on said operation timing data.

8. The game machine according to claim 1, wherein  
said communications means is used for infrared  
communications,

said first operation timing storage means stores the  
5 data relating to the operation timings of said operation switches  
operated by the player during a predetermined segment of the game,

said second operation timing storage means acquires and  
stores the data stored in said first operation timing storage

means of said other game machines for each of the predetermined  
10 segment of the game, and

said correlation evaluation means evaluates, for each  
of the predetermined segment of the game, correlation with said  
other game machines in terms of game operation based on the data  
stored in said first operation timing storage means and in said  
15 second operation timing storage means.

9. The game machine according to claim 3, wherein  
said correlation evaluation means differs the number  
of points to be added depending on a difference between the timing  
based on the data stored in said first operation timing storage  
5 means and the timing based on the data stored in said second  
operation storage means.

10. The game machine according to claim 5, wherein  
said correlation evaluation means differs the number  
of points to be added depending on both a difference between the  
timing based on said one of data and the timing based on said  
5 operation timing data, and a difference between the timing based  
on said one of data and the timing based on said other of data.

11. The game machine according to claim 1, wherein  
when evaluating that the data stored in said first  
operation timing storage means and/or in said second operation

timing storage means is in said predetermined range, said  
5 correlation evaluation means increases a game score, and the  
number of points to be added thereto is differed based on a  
difference between the data to be evaluated.

12. A game machine for executing a predetermined game  
in response to a player's operation, comprising:

display means for displaying a game screen;

operation switches operated by the player;

5 communications means for performing data  
communications among other game machines;

start timing synchronization means for establishing  
start-timing synchronization with said other game machines in the  
game by communications via said communications means;

10 process means for carrying out a predetermined process,  
in response when the game is synchronously started, corresponding  
to the player's operation of said operation switches;

first timing storage means for storing data relating  
to a timing at which said predetermined process is carried out;

15 second timing storage means for acquiring and storing  
the data which is stored in said first timing storage means of  
said other game machines through communications via said  
communications means; and

correlation evaluation means for evaluating  
20 correlation in terms of game process timing with said other game

machines based on the data stored in said first timing storage means and said second timing storage means.

13. A game system structured by a plurality of a game machine for executing a predetermined game in response to a player's operation, and a data processing device for evaluating operational correlation among the plurality of the game machines,

5           said game machine comprising:

display means for displaying a game screen;

operation switches operated by the player;

communications means for performing data communications between other game machines and said data 10 processing device;

start timing synchronization means for establishing start-timing synchronization with said other game machines in the game by communications via said communications means;

prompt information storage means for storing 15 operation timing data defining an operation timing of said operation switches to be operated by the player;

display control means for having, in response when the game is synchronously started, said display means displayed information about the operation timings of said operation 20 switches to be operated by the player based on said operation timing data;

operation timing storage means for storing data

relating to the operation timings of said operation switches  
operated by the player responding to the information displayed  
25 on said display means; and

operation timing data transmission means for  
transmitting the data of said operation timing storage means to  
said data processing device through communications via said  
communications means, and

30           said data processing device comprising:

timing data storage means for receiving and storing  
the data, one by one, transmitted from said operation timing data  
transmission means through communications via said  
communications means; and

35           correlation evaluation means for evaluating  
correlation among the game machines in terms of game operation  
based on the data stored in said timing data storage means.

14. A program for controlling a game executed in a game  
machine, comprising the steps of:

establishing start-timing synchronization in the game  
through data communications performed among other game machines;

5           reading operation timing data defining an operation  
timing of operation switches to be operated by a player;

in response when the game is synchronously started,  
having display means of the game machine displayed information  
about the operation timings of said operation switches to be

10       operated by the player based on said operation timing data;  
                storing its own data relating to the operation timings  
of said operation switches operated by the player in response to  
the information displayed on said display means;  
                acquiring, through communications, other data relating  
15      to the operation timings of said operation switches operated by  
the player in said other game machines; and  
                evaluating correlation among said other game machines  
in terms of game operation based on said its own data and said  
other data.

15. A program of a music game executed in a game machine,  
comprising the steps of:

generating a predetermined sound in response to a  
player's operation of operation switches;

5       selecting one part out of a plurality of those relating  
to music play;

establishing start-timing synchronization in the game  
through data communications performed among other game machines;

reading operation timing data defining a plurality of  
10      the operation timings of the operation switches to be operated  
by the player at least for said selected part;

in response when the game is synchronously started,  
having display means of the game machine displayed information  
about the operation timings of said operation switches to be

15       operated by the player at least for said selected part out of the information based on said operation timing data;

                setting at least one of the plurality of operation timings based on said operation timing data as an evaluation timing;

20           storing its own data relating to the operation timings corresponding to said evaluation timing out of the operation timings of said operation switches operated by the player in response to the information displayed on said display means;

                acquiring, through communications, other data relating

25       to the operation timings of said operation switches operated by the player in said other game machines; and

                evaluating correlation among said other game machines in terms of game operation based on said its own data and said other data.

16.      The program according to claim 14, further comprising the step of evaluating whether the timing based on said its own data in storage is in a predetermined range from the timing based on said operation timing data.

17.      The program according to claim 14, wherein said evaluating step evaluates whether both the timing based on said its own data and the timing based on said other data are in a predetermined range.

18. The program according to claim 17, wherein  
said evaluating step evaluates, by using, as a  
criterial timing, the timing based on either said its own data  
or said other data whichever being the operation timing closest  
5 to the operation timing defined by said operation timing data at  
a predetermined timing, from the criterial timing based on one  
of the data, whether the timing based on the other data is in the  
predetermined range.

19. The program according to claim 14, wherein  
said evaluating step evaluates whether the timing based  
on either said its own data or said other data is in a predetermined  
range from the timing based on said operation timing data at a  
5 predetermined timing, and whether both the timing based on one  
of the data and the timing based on the other data are in the  
predetermined range.

20. The program according to claim 14, wherein  
said operation timing data defines a plurality of the  
operation timings of said operation switches to be operated by  
the player,  
5 the step is further provided for setting at least one  
of the plurality of the operation timings based on said operation  
timing data as an evaluation timing, and  
said storing step stores its own data relating to the

operation timing corresponding to said evaluation timing.

21. The program according to claim 14, wherein  
said communications is used for infrared  
communications,

said storing step stores its own data relating to the  
5 operation timings of said operation switches operated by the  
player during a predetermined segment of the game,

said acquiring step acquires, for each of the  
predetermined segment of the game, other data relating to the  
operation timings of said operation switches operated by the  
10 player in said other game machines, and

said evaluating step evaluates, for each of the  
predetermined segment of the game, correlation among said other  
game machines in terms of game operation based on said its own  
data and said other data.

22. The program according to claim 17, wherein  
said evaluating step differs the number of points to  
be added depending on a difference between the timing based on  
said its own data and the timing based on said other data.

23. The program according to claim 19, wherein  
said evaluating step differs the number of points to  
be added depending on both a difference between the timing based

on said one of data and the timing based on said operation timing  
5 data, and a difference between the timing based on said one of data and the timing based on said other data.

24. the program according to claim 14, wherein  
when evaluating that said its own data and/or said other data is in said predetermined range, said evaluating step increases a game score, and the number of points to be added thereto  
5 is differed based on a difference between data to be evaluated.

25. A program for controlling a game executed in a game machine, comprising the steps of:

establishing start-timing synchronization in the game through data communications performed among other game machines;  
5 carrying out a predetermined process corresponding to a player's operation on said operation switches in response when the game is synchronously started;

storing its own data relating to a timing at which said predetermined process is carried out;

10 acquiring other data relating to the timing at which the predetermined process is carried out corresponding to the player's operation on said operation switches in said other game machines through communications, and

evaluating correlation with said other game machines  
15 in terms of game process timing based on said its own data and

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said other data.

26. A game machine used in a game system structured by a plurality of the game machines for executing a predetermined game in response to a player's operation, and a data processing device for evaluating operational correlation among the plurality  
5 of the game machines, comprising:

display means for displaying a game screen;

operation switches operated by the player;

communications means for performing data communications between other game machines and said data

10 processing device structuring said game system;

start timing synchronization means for establishing start-timing synchronization with said other game machines in the game by communications via said communications means;

prompt information storage means for storing operation  
15 timing data defining an operation timing of said operation switches to be operated by the player;

display control means for having, in response when the game is synchronously started, said display means displayed information about the operation timings of said operation  
20 switches to be operated by the player based on said operation timing data;

operation timing storage means for storing data relating to the operation timings of said operation switches

operated by the player responding to the information displayed  
on said display means; and

operation timing data transmission means for  
transmitting the data of said operation timing storage means to  
5 said data processing device through communications via said  
communications means.

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